to ensure that cheques are issued and despatched within a period of 15 days.

II. *Action by the Tribunal:*

(i) Top priority is given to the disposal of accident claims cases.

(ii) Circuit benches are held from time to time at stations other than headquarters of the bench for convenience of claimants.

(iii) Members from one bench are deputed to other benches whenever required due to non-availability of a member at that bench.

(iv) Requests of claimants are allowed for transfer of cases from one bench to the other near to their residence for their convenience.

(v) Adjournments are not ordinarily granted to the parties.

Transfer of DMS to Delhi Government

*145. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government had decided to handover the Delhi Milk Scheme to Delhi Government sans liabilities which have accumulated as on 1st October, 1997;

(b) If so, the extent of accumulated liabilities as on October 1, 1997 and April, 1 1997, 1996, and 1995; and

(c) the reasons for the heavy losses and the liabilities incurred year after year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) In June 1997 Government of India have approved transfer of the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD). The Chief Minister of GNCTD had met the Agriculture Minister on 10.9.1997 and informed that GNCTD will take over control of DMS with effect from 1.10.1997. Subsequent to that, there has been no response from GNCTD.

(b) and (c) During the last three years the following has been the excess of expenditure over receipts:

	Rs. (crores)
1994-95	4.63
1995-96	45.14
1996-97	49.68

Losses are primarily due to the selling price of milk being kept below the cost of production. The high cost of distribution is another reason.

Deficits have been met through budgetary support provided by the Government of India. Consequently DMS does not have any accumulated liabilities to discharge.

Sterlite Industries at Tuticorin

*146. SHRI N. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for which Government have not taken any serious action against Sterlite Industries at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu inspite of repeated protest and proven health hazards of its activities to the local people.

(b) whether non-action on the part of Government indicates Government's failure in controlling a defaulting multinational;

(c) whether Central Government intends to initiate any fresh action against the said company;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) As per the recent report of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, M/s Sterlite Industries Ltd. has taken necessary pollution control measures and is complying with the prescribed standards.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board is regularly monitoring the air and water quality of the surrounding areas,